

# Equity Mapping & Transportation



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# WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

- **Environmental Justice (EJ)**
  - The **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.
- **Fair Treatment**
  - No group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, **governmental** and commercial operations or policies.
- **Meaningful Involvement**
  - People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
  - The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
  - Community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and
  - Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected

Source: U.S. Env

## JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

- Presidential Executive Order 14008 : Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home & Abroad
  - Signed January 27, 2021
  - Included the "Justice40 Initiative"
- Justice40 Initiative
  - "Government-wide initiative that aims to deliver **40 percent** of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities."

## DE JUSTICE40 RESOLUTION

- House Concurrent Resolution No. 40
- Created the "**Justice Forty Oversight Committee**"
  - "Established to study and make findings and recommendations regarding environmental justice in this State"
- Composed of 15 Members
  - Chair: Rep. Larry Lambert
  - Co-Chair: Sen. Marie Pinkney
  - Three (3) members from the House of Representatives
  - Three (3) members from the Senate
- State Agencies:
  - DNREC
  - Div. of Public Regulation
  - DE State Housing Authority
  - DHSS
  - Dept. of Agriculture
  - DeIDOT
- White House Environmental Justice

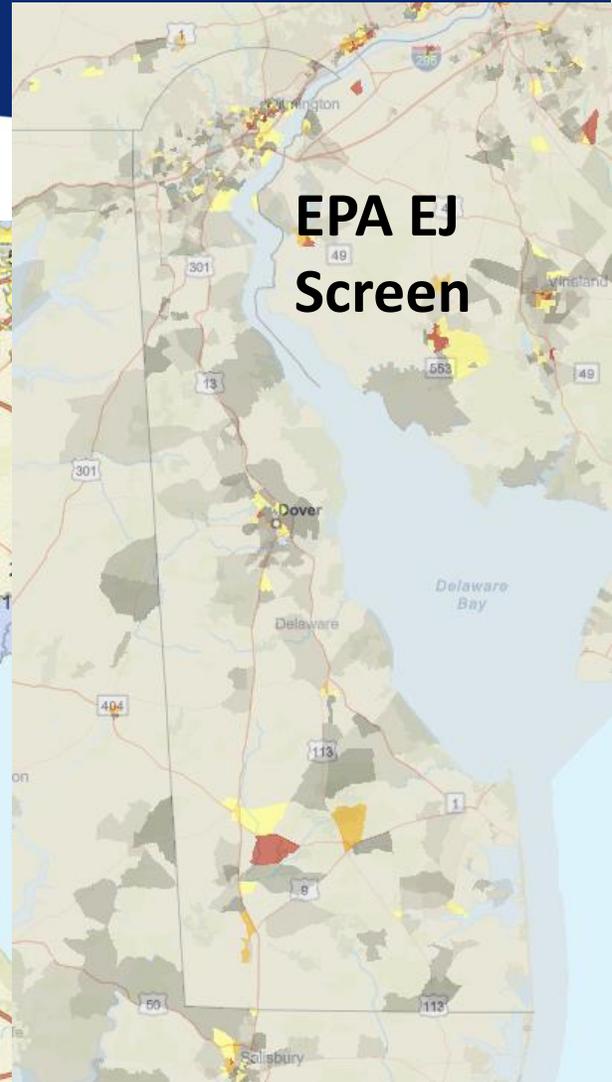
## EJ, JUSTICE40 and DELDOT

- DeIDOT mission:
  - **Excellence in Transportation**
    - Every Trip • Every Mode • Every Dollar • **Everyone**
- Data Driven Decisions
  - Identify EJ communities within Delaware
  - Gather Data (census tracts, project location, project funding levels, etc.)
  - Analyze to measure progress and identify areas needing investment



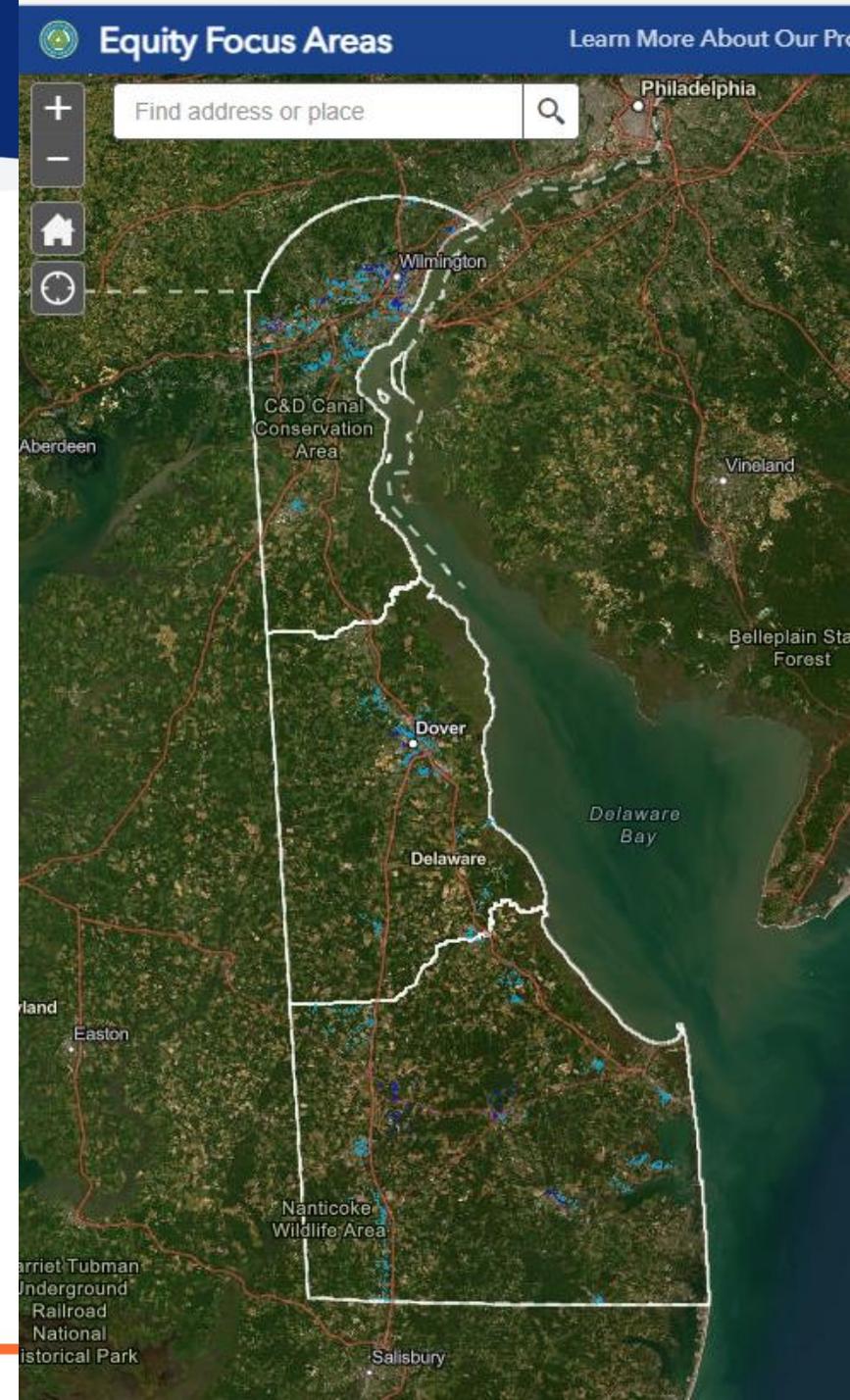
# Problem...

**In Delaware, how do we define “disadvantaged communities”?**



# DeIDOT Equity Analysis Tool

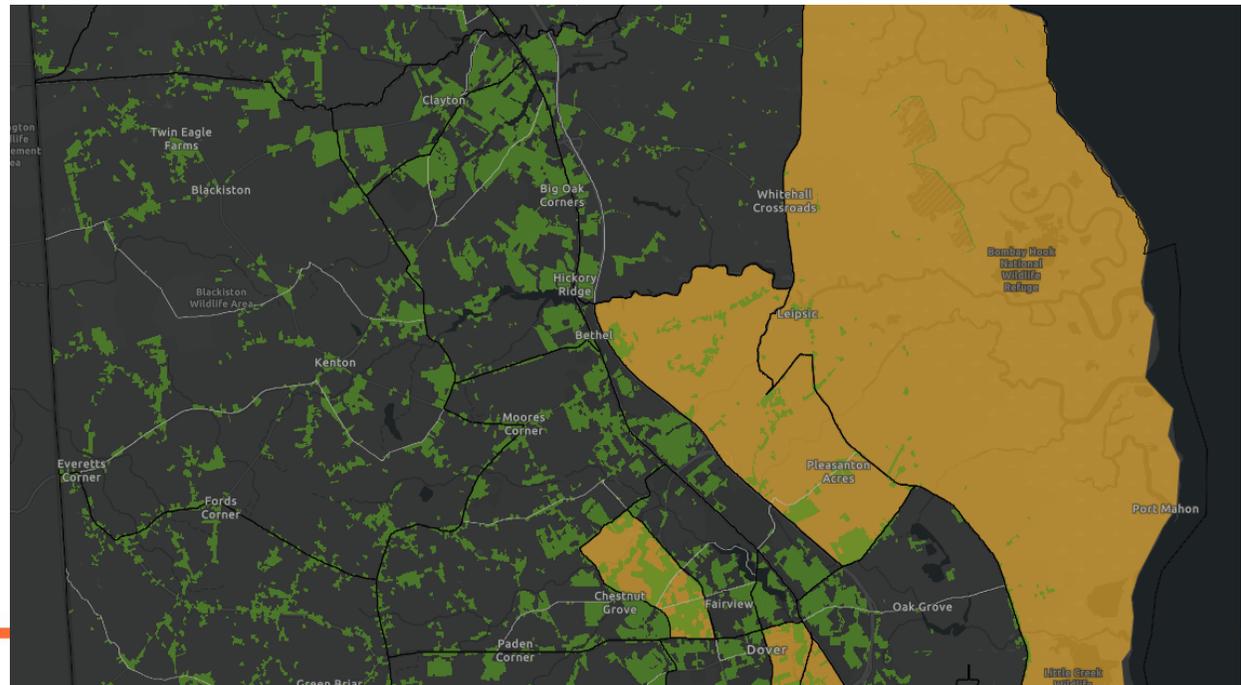
- **Goals**
  - More granular analysis
  - Focus on demographics
- **Purpose: Data driven decisions**
  - Informed investment decisions (Justice40)
  - Strategic public outreach and engagement plans
  - Standardized tool for DeIDOT (and other state agencies)



# DeIDOT Equity Analysis Tool

- **Data Sources**

- 2017 Residential Land Use Cover data
- 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Summary Block Group data



# DelDOT Equity Analysis Tool

- **DelDOT Methodology**

- Hybrid of:

- **WILMAPCO EJ Neighborhood Methodology**

- Moderate & Significant

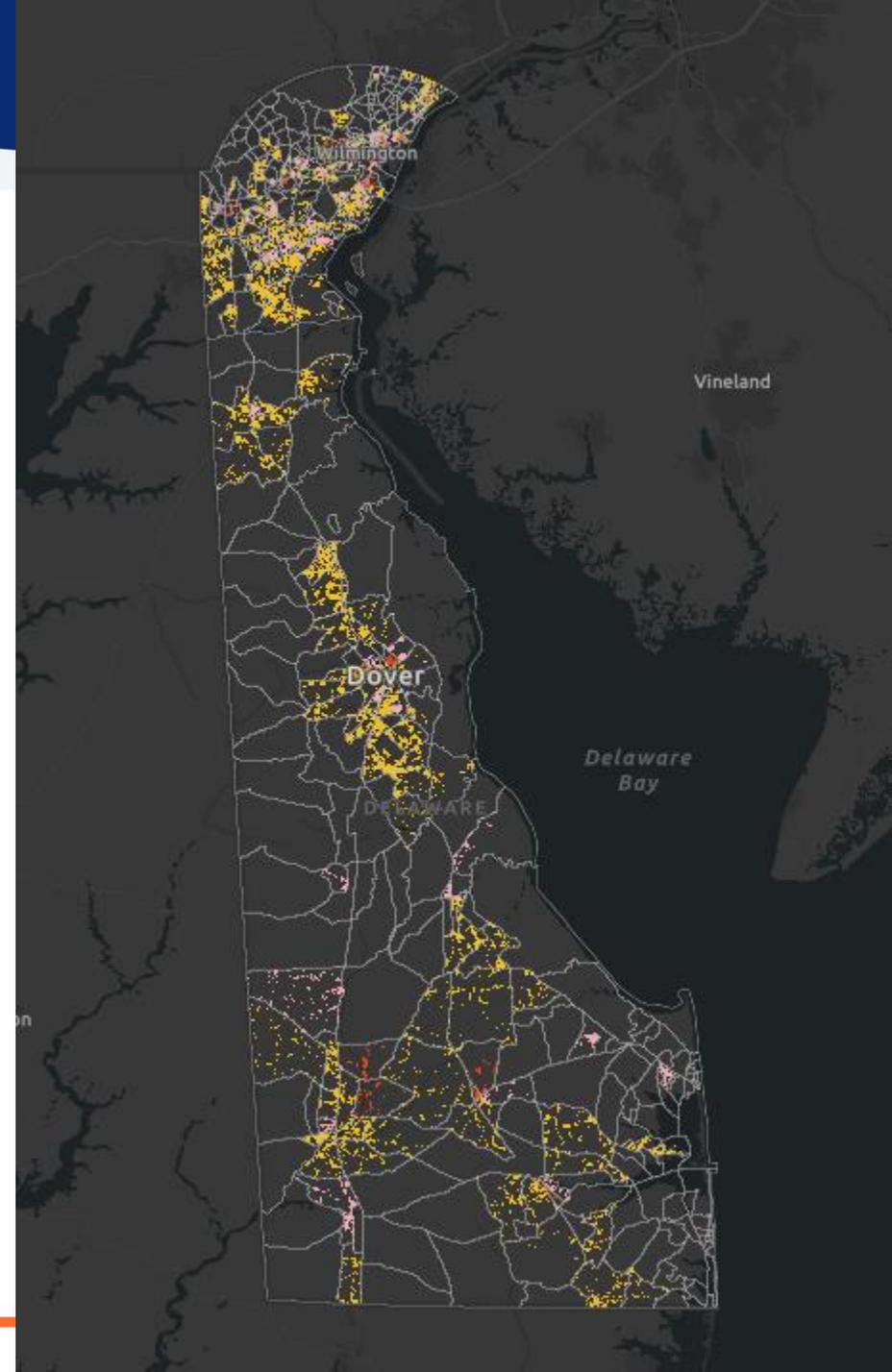
- 132 Total EJ Neighborhood Groups

- **Massachusetts's Energy & Environmental Affairs EJ methodology**

- % of Median Household Income

- 318 Total Neighborhood Groups

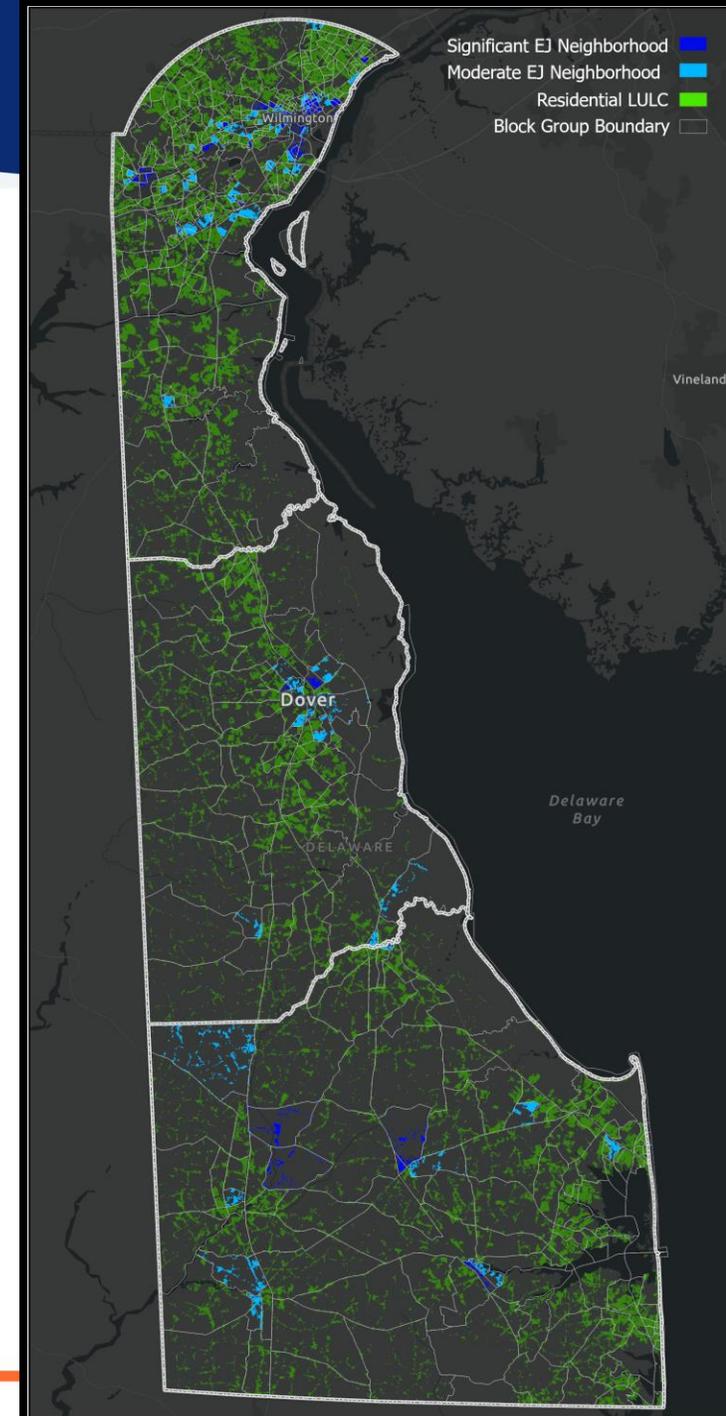
- **Incorporated Indigenous & Native American persons into minority group analysis**



# DelDOT Equity Analysis Tool

- **DelDOT Methodology: Moderate & Significant**

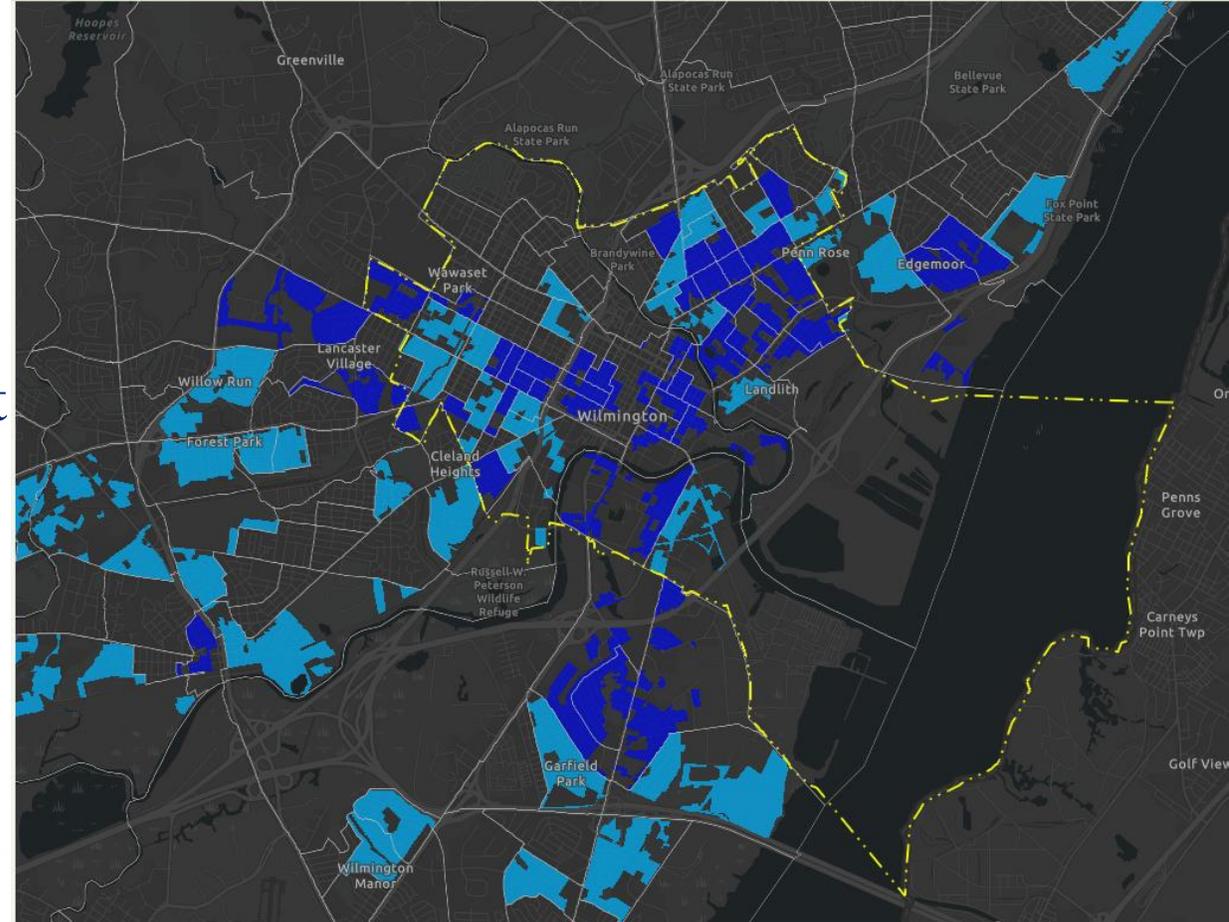
- % of Population in Poverty is greater than the State Average AND the population of African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, or Native Americans are greater than 2x or 3x the State Average, OR
- Combined population of minorities is greater than 2x or 3x the State Average, OR
- % of population in poverty is greater than 2x or 3x the State Average, OR
- MHHI (family of four) is less than or equal to \$45,985 or \$28,070.



# DelDOT Equity Analysis Tool

- **Findings**

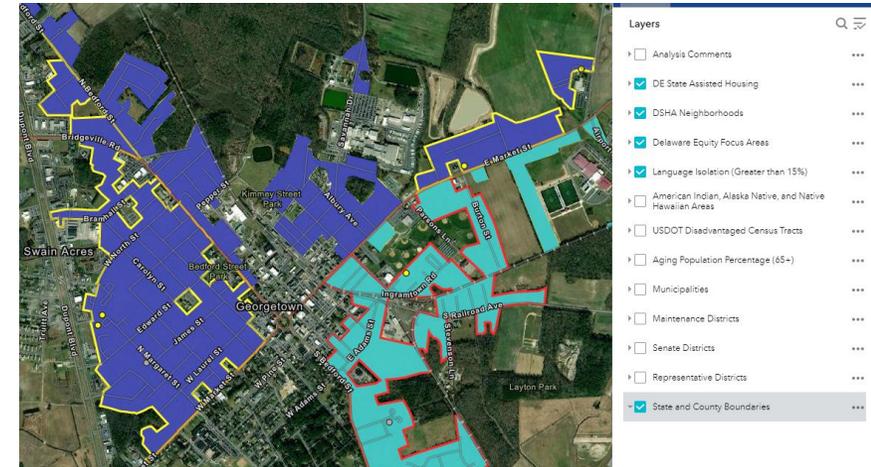
- Statewide:
  - 162 Equity Focus Areas
  - 100 Moderate, 62 Significant
- New Castle: 67 Moderate, 54 Significant
- Kent: 16 Moderate, 3 Significant
- Sussex: 17 Moderate, 5 Significant



# DeIDOT Equity Analysis Tool

- **Other Data Sources**

- Language Isolation
  - 18 Total Neighborhood Groups
    - 7 Moderate, 4 Significant
- Aging Population Percentage
- Delaware State Housing Authority



# DeIDOT Equity Analysis Tool

- **Next Steps**
  - Collaboration with stakeholders to refine methodology
    - Review feedback
    - Refine tool
  - Add data layers to DeIDOT Gateway
  - Share with the public
  - Utilize for statewide reporting



# Delaware Equity Analysis Tool

## 1. Delaware Equity Analysis Tool Story Map

- [Delaware Equity Analysis Tool \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

## 2. Delaware Equity Focus Area Interactive Map

- <https://deldot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e051d6e4313142dfb8b03205e511f661>

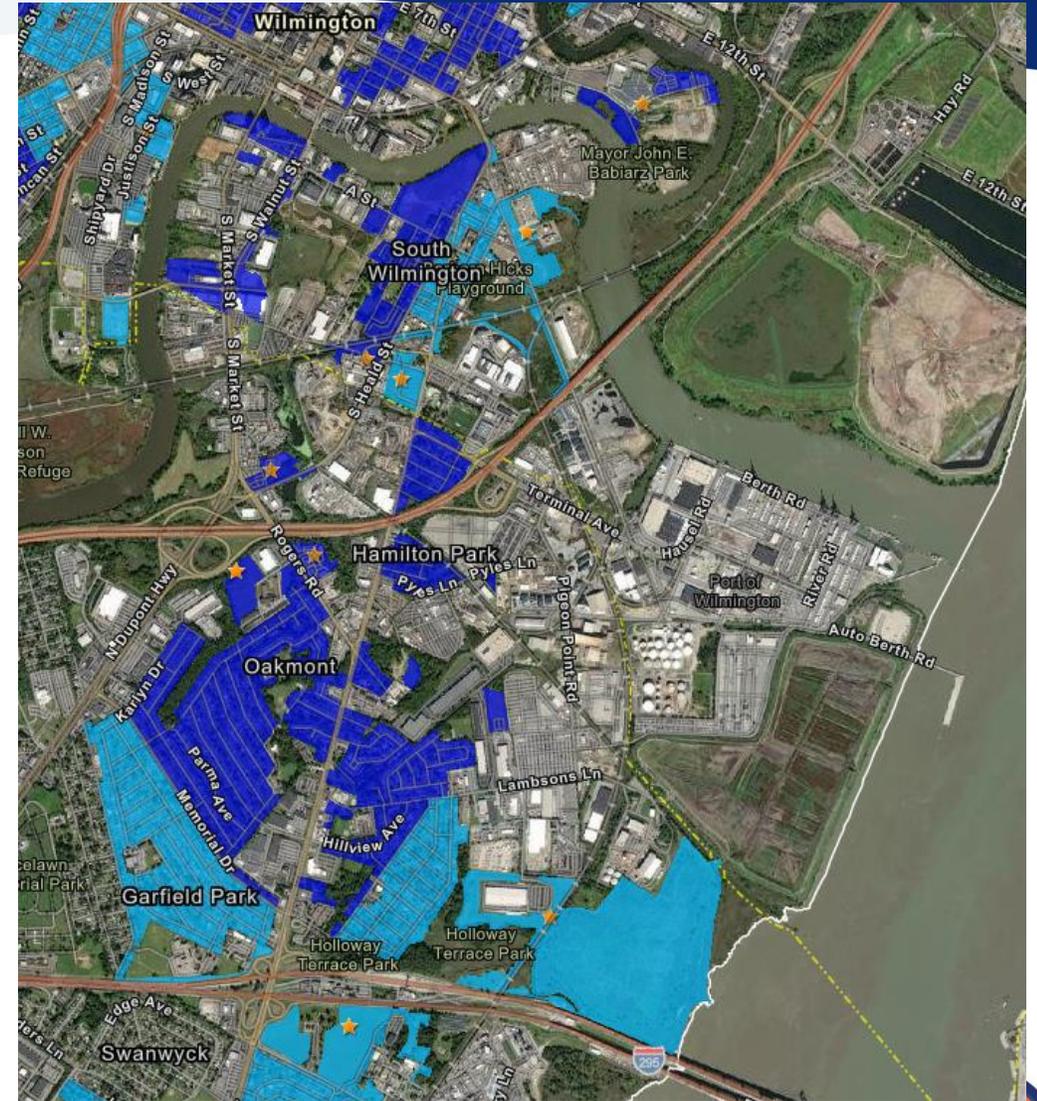
## 3. First Map

- [https://enterprise.firstmap.delaware.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Society/DE\\_Equity\\_Focus\\_Areas/FeatureServer](https://enterprise.firstmap.delaware.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Society/DE_Equity_Focus_Areas/FeatureServer)
- [https://enterprise.firstmap.delaware.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Society/DE\\_Equity\\_Focus\\_Areas/MapServer](https://enterprise.firstmap.delaware.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Society/DE_Equity_Focus_Areas/MapServer)



# Delaware Equity Analysis Tool

- “Connecting Route 9 Corridor Communities”



# Do you think DelDOT gives equity enough consideration in its projects?

Yes

No

# In what ways could you use this equity focus areas data set for DelDOT?

Public outreach & engagement

Investment decisions

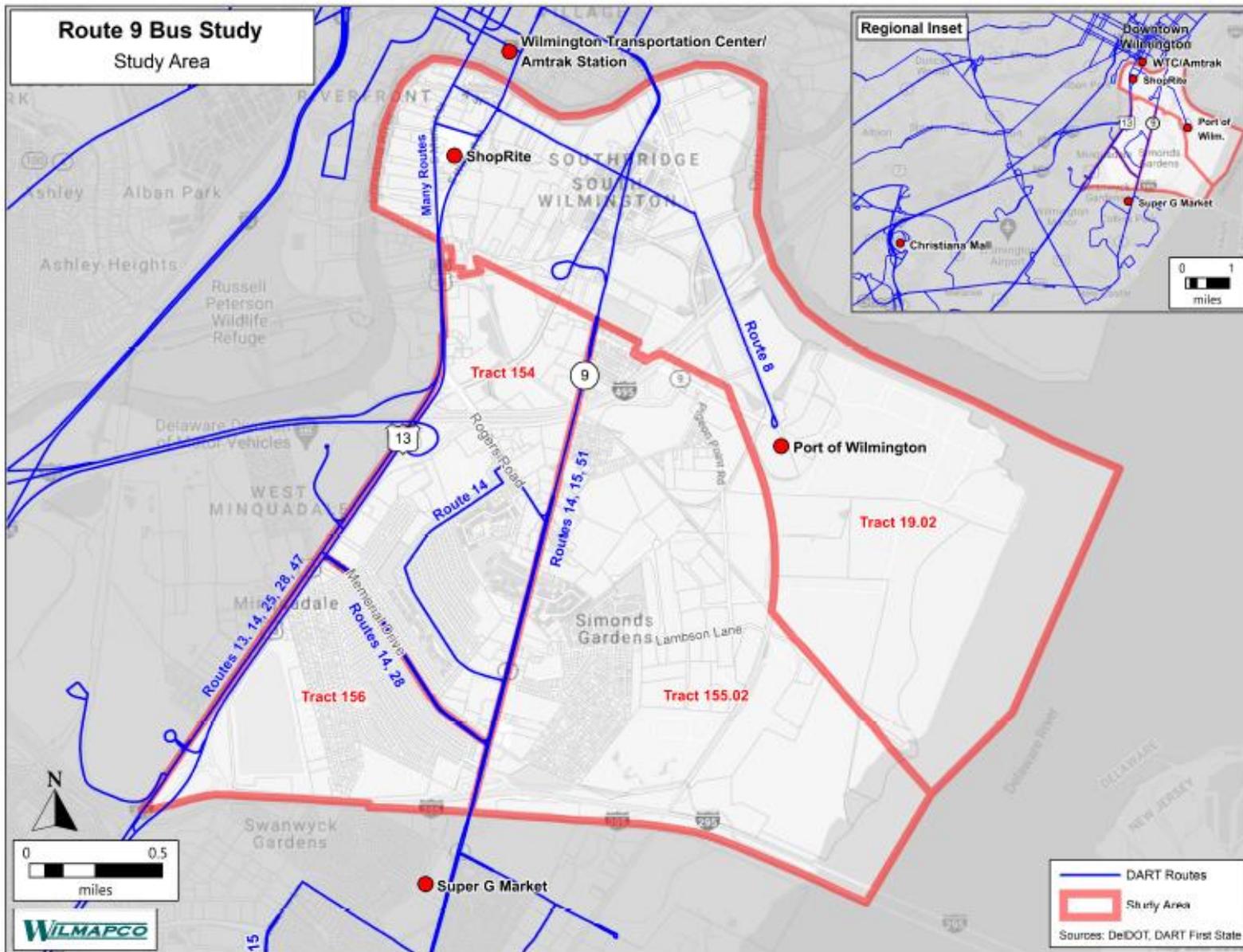
Grant applications/reporting

Planning analysis

Other

# Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Award

**“Connecting Route 9 Corridor  
Communities”**



## Project Boundaries

- 3-mile stretch, State Route 9  
Corridor including
- Southbridge neighborhood
  - To City of Wilmington
  - I-295 in New Castle County

## Demographic Data for Study Area

- 75% Minority population
- 27% have no car
- 62% are renters
- 31% live below poverty rate

## **DART Fixed Routes in the Corridor Area**

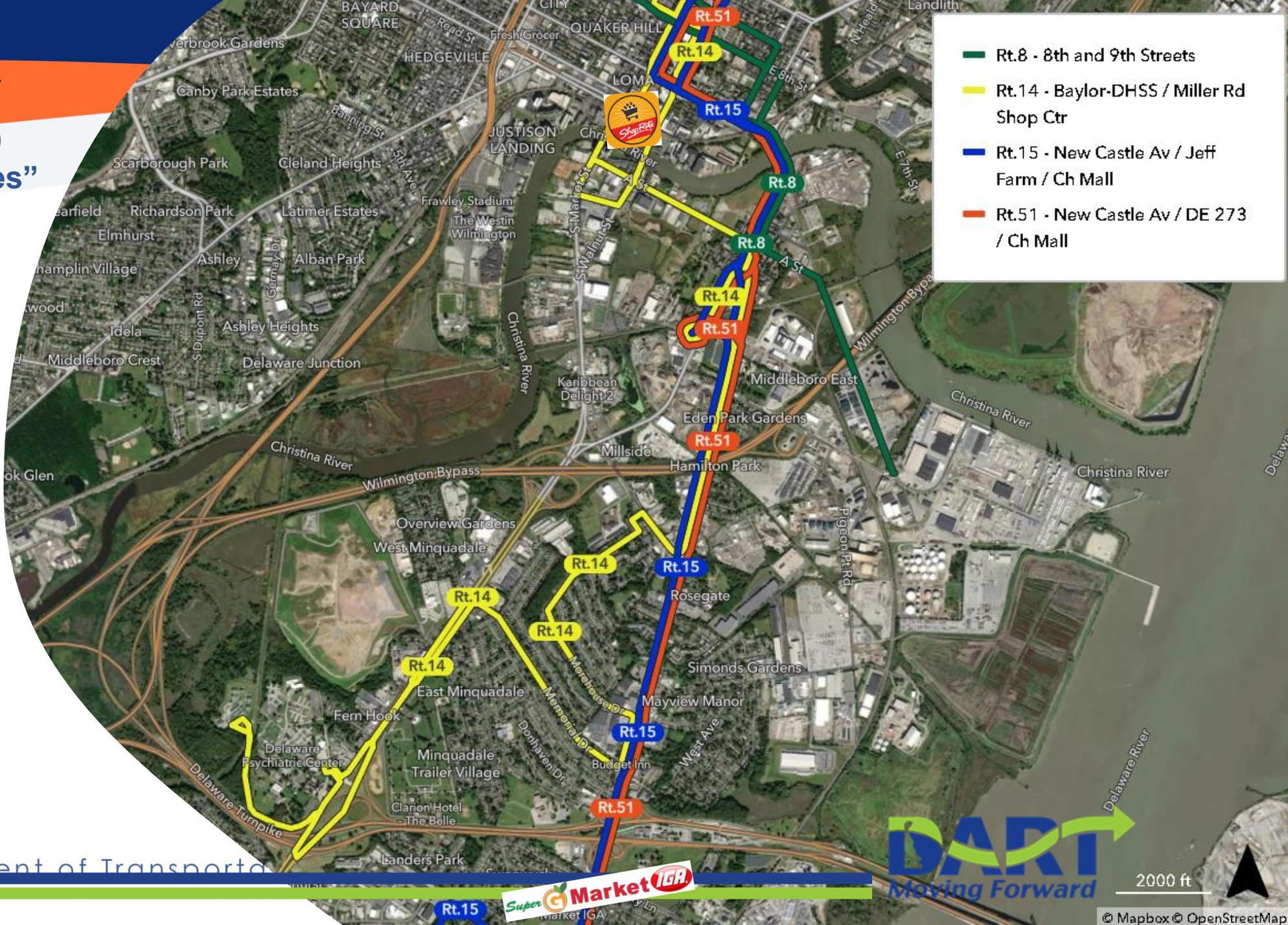
Routes 8, 13, 14, 15, 25, 47 and 51

## **Bus Routes operating along Route 9 Corridor**

Routes 14, 15 and 51

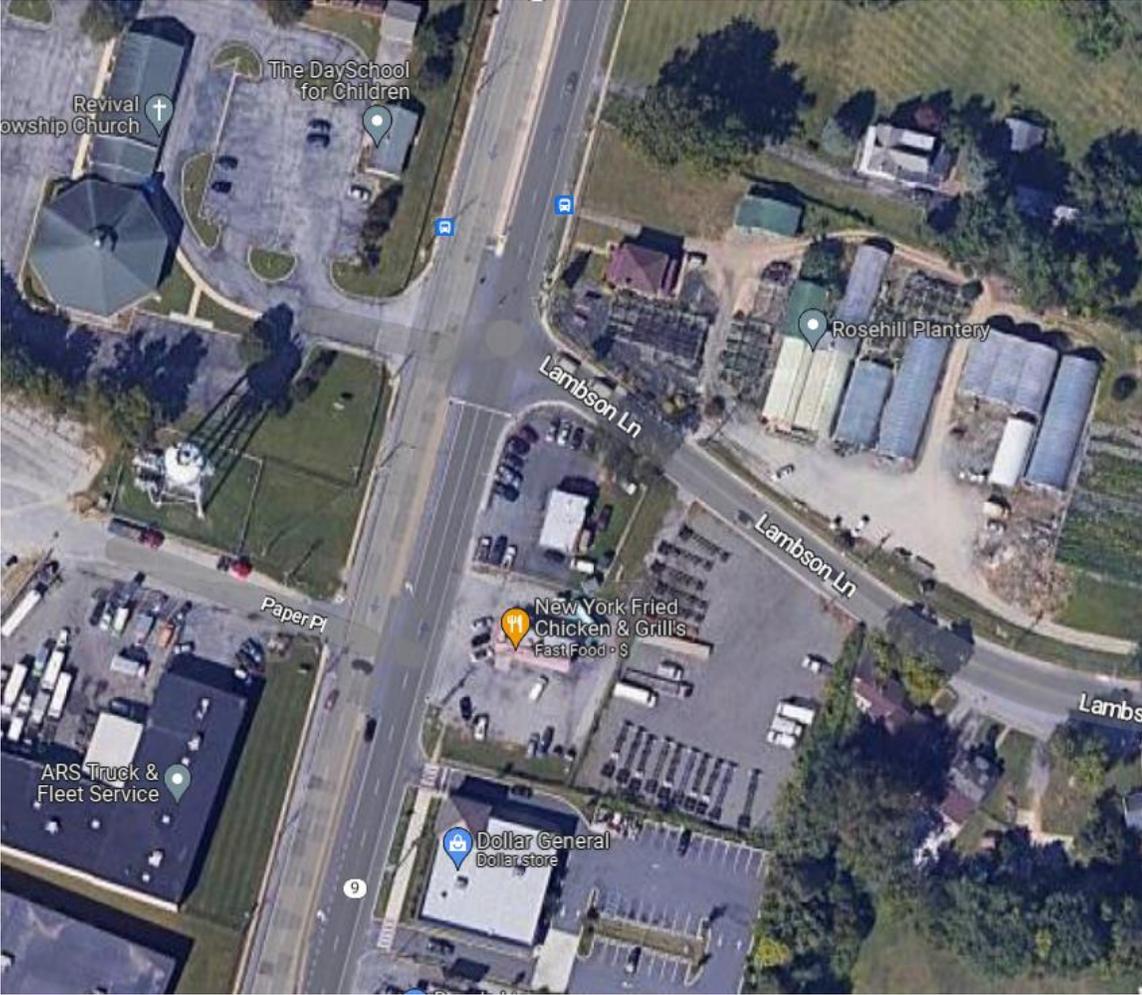
# DE-9 Corridor Area Map

## “Connecting Route 9 Corridor Communities”



2000 ft

# SR-9 Corridor Bus Stop



# SR-9 Corridor Area Map



## FY 2021 Grants under the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program

- August 2021, DTC submitted grant application to FTA
- Identifying and prioritizing critical public transportation enhancements
- Create better access to opportunity through public outreach and informed technical analysis
- June 2022, FTA awarded DTC \$630,000
- With required local match, project estimated at \$700,000

## Goals and Objectives – Transit Planning Technical Analysis

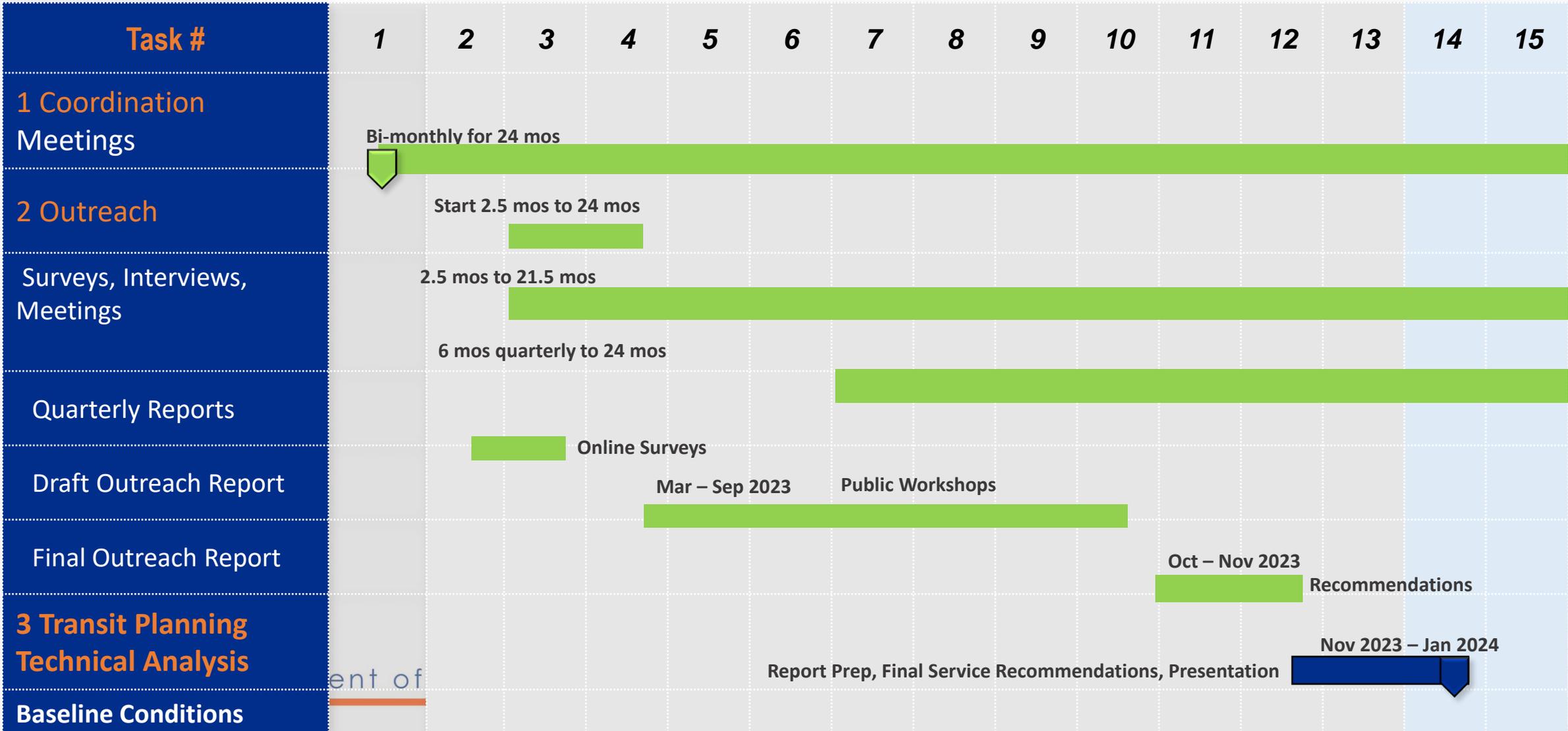
Improving public transportation to a transit-dependent community in the following areas:

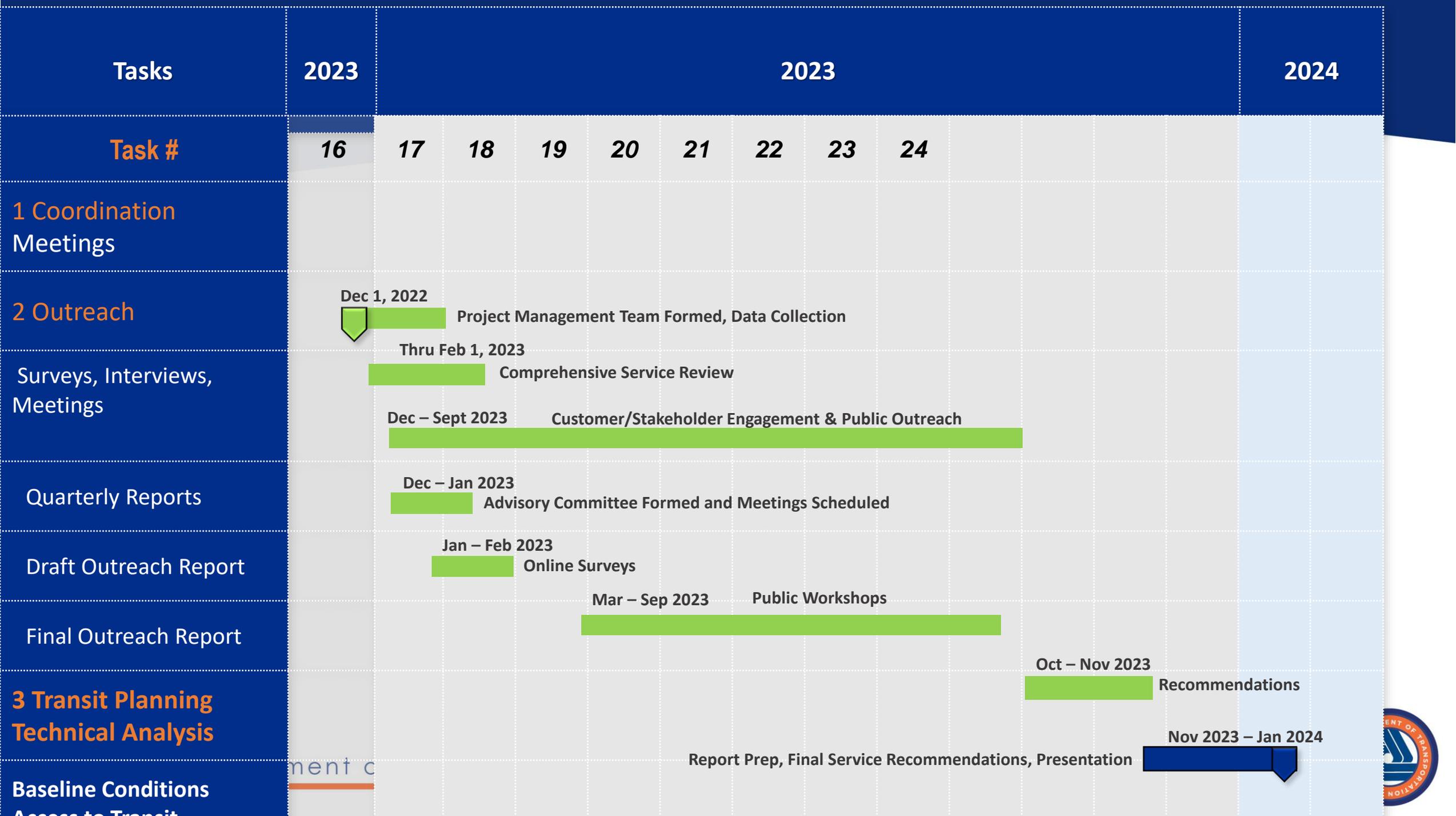
- Transit planning and evaluating fixed-route bus improvements
- Micro transit initiatives
- Better, safer, and enhanced connections to transit for the area’s communities, i.e. missing sidewalks, rapidly moving through traffic and few crosswalks
- Identify needed transit amenities and improvements such as benches, shelters, lighting

## Goals and Objectives – Transit Planning Technical Analysis

Improving public transportation to a transit-dependent community in the following areas:

- Identify resilience concerns: flood prevention and stormwater management
- Study truck traffic contribution to modal conflicts with buses, creating safety hazards for pedestrians and transit users
- Complete Streets – to devise a sound strategy of multimodal corridor improvements to augment enhancements identified in other studies, plans, & projects (WILMAPCO's Southbridge Transportation Action Plan (STAP); Route 9 Corridor Master Plan and DeIDOT's RAISE grant)





# Micro Transit

## DART Connect: Delaware's first on-demand microtransit service

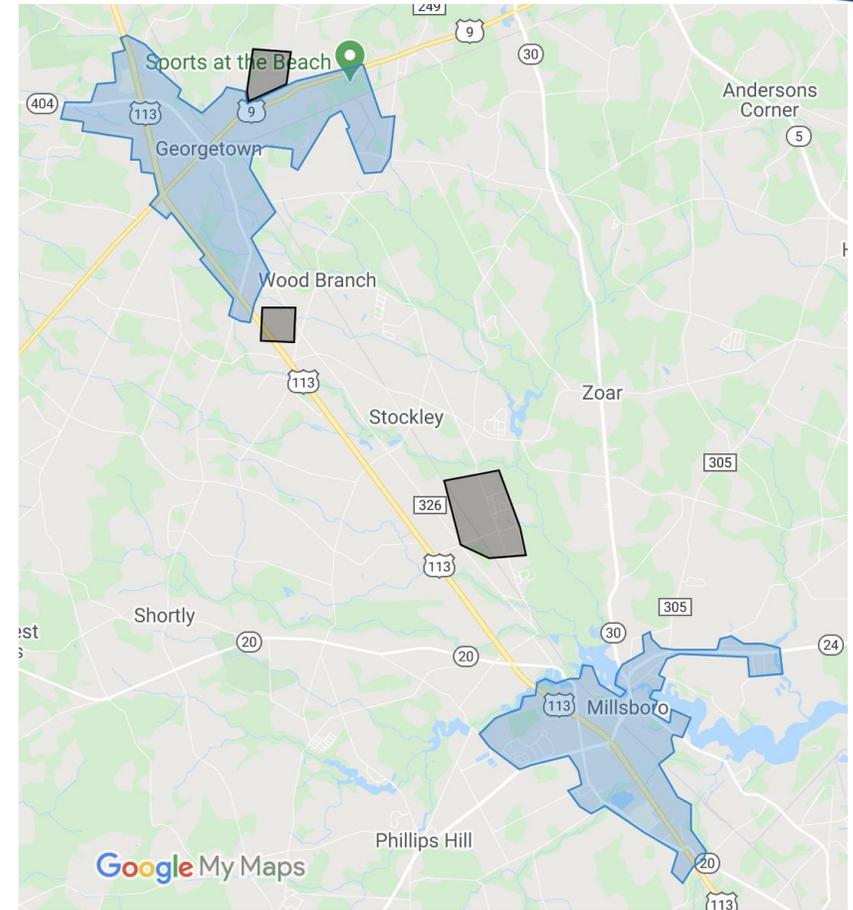
- Pilot launched April 2021 in Georgetown and Millsboro
- Uses smaller vehicles
- Same Day On-Demand Rides
  - App booking
  - Phone booking
  - No “hailing”
- Flexible routing
- Affordable, convenient connections
- Customized app



# Mobility

## DART Connect

- Since Launch in April 2021 (Jan. 2023)
  - 34,946 rides
  - 4,065 DART Connect accounts
  - 54% of rides booked in app
  - Average ride: 15 min
  - Average ride distance: 6 mi
  - Average walk distance: 108 ft
  - 31% of time, riders are on board with another person



Questions ?  
Thank you!